CLAIMS

[1] A UI display apparatus that displays, on a screen, a device connected to a network, said apparatus comprising:

a recording unit in which display judgment information is recorded, the display judgment information indicating whether or not information should be displayed on the screen;

a communication unit operable to communicate with an other device connected to the network;

an obtainment unit operable to obtain, through said communication unit, device-related information relating to the device on the network;

a judgment unit operable to compare the device-related information obtained by said obtainment unit with the display judgment information recorded in said recording unit, and to judge whether or not the device-related information is indicated in the display judgment information; and

a display unit operable to display the device-related information obtained through said communication unit, in the case where said judgment unit judges that the device-related information is indicated in the display judgment information.

[2] The UI display apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the display judgment information recorded in said recording unit indicates at least one of: device type information indicating a type of the device; device information being information about the device itself; device service information indicating details about a service provided by the device; and service attribute information indicating an attribute of the service.

[3] The UI display apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the device-related information obtained by said obtainment unit indicates at least one of: device type information

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indicating a type of the device; device information being information about the device itself; device service information indicating details about a service provided by the device; and service attribute information indicating an attribute of the service.

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[4]   The UI display apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising

an authentication unit operable to authenticate whether or not the device-related information obtained by said obtainment unit

10   has been sent from an authorized device, using an identifier to identify the device,

wherein said display unit is operable to display the device-related information in the case where said authentication unit has authenticated that the device-related information is valid.

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[5]   The UI display apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein said obtainment unit is operable to obtain the device-related information through said communication unit, using at least one or a combination of communication protocols, and

20   said UI display apparatus further comprises a communication status recording unit operable to record a communication status for each   communication   protocol,   in   the   case   where   said communication unit carries out communication using at least one or a combination of communication protocols, and

25   said display unit is operable to perform the display in accordance with the communication status recorded in said communication status recording unit and the device-related information obtained by said obtainment unit.

30   [6]   The UI display apparatus according to Claim 5,

wherein the display is one of icon display and text display, and said display unit is operable to perform one of the icon display

and the text display which corresponds to the device-related information, in the case where said judgment unit judges that the display should be performed.

5   [7]   The UI display apparatus according to Claim 5,
        wherein the display is one of icon display and text display, and
        said display unit is operable to perform one of the icon display
and the text display differently for each communication status, in
the case where said judgment unit judges that the display should be
10 performed.

    [8]   The UI display apparatus according to Claim 1, further
    comprising
        an input update unit through which a user selects the display
15 judgment information recorded in said recording unit and inputs and
    updates the selected information.

    [9]   A UI display method for use with a UI display apparatus that
    displays, on a screen, a device connected to a network, said method
20 comprising:
        a recording step of recording display judgment information
    indicating whether or not information should be displayed on the
    screen;
        a communication step of communicating with an other device
25 connected to the network;
        an obtainment step of obtaining, through said communication
    step, device-related information relating to the device on the
    network;
        a judgment step of comparing the device-related information
30 obtained in said obtainment step with the display judgment
    information recorded in said recording step, and judging whether or
    not the device-related information is indicated in the display

judgment information; and

a display step of displaying the device-related information obtained through said communication step, in the case where it is judged in said judgment step that the device-related information is indicated in the display judgment information.

[10]　The UI display method according to Claim 9,

wherein the display judgment information recorded in said recording step indicates at least one of: device type information indicating a type of the device; device information being information about the device itself; device service information indicating details about a service provided by the device; and service attribute information indicating an attribute of the service.

[11]　The UI display method according to Claim 9,

wherein the device-related information obtained in said obtainment step indicates at least one of: device type information indicating a type of the device; device information being information about the device itself; device service information indicating details about a service provided by the device; and service attribute information indicating an attribute of the service.

[12]　The UI display method according to Claim 9, further comprising

an authentication step of authenticating whether or not the device-related information obtained in said obtainment step has been sent from an authorized device, using an identifier to identify the device,

wherein in said display step, the device-related information is displayed in the case where it has been authenticated in said authentication step that the device-related information is valid.

[13] The UI display method according to Claim 9,

wherein in said obtainment step, the device-related information is obtained through said communication step, using at least one or a combination of communication protocols, and

5   said UI display method further comprises a communication status recording step of recording a communication status for each communication protocol, in the case where communication is carried out in said communication step, using at least one or a combination of communication protocols, and

10   in said display step, the display is performed in accordance with the communication status recorded in said communication status recording step and the device-related information obtained in said obtainment step.

15 [14] The UI display method according to Claim 13,

wherein the display is one of icon display and text display, and

in said display step, one of the icon display and the text display which corresponds to the device-related information is performed, in the case where it is judged in said judgment step that

20 the display should be performed.

[15] The UI display method according to Claim 13,

wherein the display is one of icon display and text display, and

in said display step, one of the icon display and the text

25 display is performed differently for each communication status, in the case where it is judged in said judgment step that the display should be performed.

[16] The UI display method according to Claim 9, further

30 comprising

an input update step through which a user selects the display judgment information recorded in said recording step and inputs and

updates the selected information.

[17]   A program causing a computer to execute one or more, or all functions of one or more, or all units included in the UI display apparatus according to any of Claims 1 to 8.

[18]   A storage medium storing a program and/or data used to cause a computer to execute one or more, or all functions of one or more, or all units included in the UI display apparatus according to any of Claims 1 to 8, said storage medium being processable by the computer.